

Message Text

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63

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /059 W

----- 043972

O R 012020Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9472

AMEMBASSY LAGOS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS LOME 1703

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR TO NI

SUBJECT: GENERAL GOWON ARRIVES IN LOME TO PUBLIC WELCOME

REF: LOME 1697

1. GENERAL YAKUBU GOWON ARRIVED TODAY (AUG. 1) AT LOME AT 1740 HOURS IN PRESIDENT EYADEMA'S FOKKER F-28 JET AIRCRAFT, ACCOMPANIED BY TOGOLESE FONMIN HUNLEDE. HE WAS MET AT TOKOIN AIRPORT BY PRESIDENT EYADEMA AND ALL AVAILABLE GOT MINISTERS. IMMENSE CROWD WAS ON HAND AT AIRPORT AND LINED HIGHWAY AND BOULEVARD BACK TO PRESIDENTIAL PALACE WHERE GOWON IS EVIDENTLY BEING LODGED. EARLIER IN DAY GOT ANNOUNCED GOWON'S IMPENDING ARRIVAL OVER RADIO TOGO AND URGED POPULACE TO TURN OUT TO GIVE HIM WARM WELCOME.

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2. ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT WAS WITNESSED BY TWO MEMBERS USIS LOME STAFF. THEY REPORT GOWON WAS RELAXED AND SMILING. NO NATIONAL ANTHEMS WERE PLAYED NOR WAS THERE MILITARY GUARD OF HONOR ON FIELD AS WOULD BE FOR VISITING CHIEF OF STATE; WELCOME WAS OTHERWISE ALMOST SAME. (DIPLOMATIC CORPS WAS NOT RPT NOT INVITED TO ATTEND.) PRESIDENT'S SPAHI-LIKE "GARDE ROUGE" (SO-CALLED BECAUSE OF FLOWING RED CAPES) LINED ENTRANCE TO AIRPORT VIP LOUNGE AND SALUTED WITH SABERS AS GOWON AND EYADEMA PASSED. LOCAL PRESS AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WERE PRESENT AND LENGTH OF TIME PARTY SPENT IN LOUNGE SUGGESTS GOWON OR EYADEMA (OR BOTH) MAY HAVE MADE STATEMENT. EYADEMA AND GOWON THEN ENTERED PRESIDENT'S OPEN CAR AND RODE STANDING INTO TOWN WITH MOTORCYCLE ESCORT. AT PALACE THEY WERE WELCOMED BY LARGE CONTINGENT OF RPT "ANIMATEURS" AND "ANIMATRICES" (PARTY YOUTH WHO ENACT POLITICAL PROPAGANDA IN PRAISE OF EYADEMA AND RPT).

3. NO INDICATIONS YET AS TO HOW LONG GOWON PLANS TO STAY OR WHAT HIS INTENTIONS ARE. RAWLS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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